CLAIMS AMENDMENT

Claims 1-34 (Cancelled).

Claim 35 (Currently amended). A method of identifying TSE-infected B-cells associated with transmissible spongiform encephalopathy in a test sample, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a test sample suspected of TSE infection;

collecting B-cells from the test sample;

subjecting said B-cells to homogenization;

subjecting said homogenized B-cells to proteinase K digestion;

subjecting said digested B-cells to SDS Page immunoaffinity chromatography blots; ~~and~~

contacting said blots with an anti-PrP antibody,

wherein the presence of a signal from said anti-PrP antibody-PrP complex in the sample is indicative of TSE-infected B-cells;

identifying TSE-infected B-cells based on the presence of said signal; and

wherein the identification of TSE-infected B-cells is associated with TSE promulgation and primary infection.

Claim 36 (Currently amended). A method of identifying TSE-infected T-cells associated with transmissible spongiform encephalopathy in a test sample, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a test sample suspected of TSE infection;

collecting T-cells from the test sample;

subjecting said T-cells to homogenization;

subjecting said homogenized T-cells to proteinase K digestion;

subjecting said digested T-cells to SDS Page immunoaffinity chromatography blots; ~~and~~

contacting said blots with an anti-PrP antibody,

wherein the presence of a signal from said anti-PrP antibody-PrP complex in the sample is indicative of TSE-infected T-cells;

identifying TSE-infected T-cells based on the presence of said signal; and

wherein the identification of TSE-infected T-cells is associated with TSE promulgation and secondary infection.

Claim 37 (Currently amended). A method of identifying TSE-infected B-cells and TSE-infected T-cells associated with transmissible spongiform encephalopathy in a test sample, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a test sample suspected of TSE infection;

collecting B-cells and T-cells from the test sample;

subjecting said B-cells and said T-cells to homogenization;

subjecting said homogenized B-cells and T-cells to proteinase K digestion;

subjecting said digested B-cells and T-cells to SDS Page immunoaffinity chromatography blots; ~~and~~

contacting said blots with an anti-PrP antibody,

wherein the presence of a signal from said anti-PrP antibody-PrP complex in the sample is indicative of TSE-infected B-cells and TSE-infected T-cells;

identifying TSE-infected B-cells and TSE-infected T-cells based on the presence of said signal; and

wherein the identification of TSE-infected B-cells is associated with TSE promulgation and primary infection and the identification of TSE-infected T-cells is associated with TSE promulgation and secondary infection.

Claims 38-40 (Cancelled).